

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing aluminum alloy sheets excelling in bake-hardenability and hemmability, comprising steps of casting, by means of a twin-belt casting method, an alloy melt comprising 0.30-1.00 wt% of Mg, 0.30-1.20 wt% of Si, 0.05-0.50 wt% of Fe, 0.05-0.50 wt% of Mn and 0.005-0.10 wt% of Ti, optionally further comprising at least one of 0.05-0.70 wt% of Cu or 0.05-0.40 wt% of Zr, the remainder consisting of Al and unavoidable impurities, to form a 5-15 mm thick slab at a cooling rate of 40-150°C/s at a quarter-thickness of the slab; winding into a coil; subjecting to a homogenization treatment by inserting the coil into a batch furnace, heating to 520-580°C at a heating rate of at least 30°C/h, then holding at that temperature for 2-24 hours; cooling to 250°C or less at a cooling rate of at least 500°C/h; cold rolling; then subjecting to a solution treatment by heating to 530-560°C at a heating rate of at least 10°C/s in a continuous annealing line, and holding for 30 seconds or less.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1[[3]], comprising steps, after said solution treatment, of cooling to room temperature at a cooling rate of at least 10°C/s, then subjecting to a restoration treatment by holding for 30 seconds or less at 260-300°C in a

continuous annealing furnace, and cooling to room temperature at a cooling rate of at least 10°C/s.

5. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1[[3]], comprising steps, after said solution treatment, of water-cooling to 250°C or less at a cooling rate of at least 10°C/s, then air-cooling to 60-100°C at a cooling rate of 1-20°C/s, coiling up, and subjecting to a preliminary ageing treatment by cooling to room temperature.

6. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1[[3]], comprising steps, after said solution treatment, of cooling to room temperature at a cooling rate of at least 10°C/s, then subjecting to a restoration treatment by holding for 30 seconds or less at 260-300°C in a continuous annealing furnace, cooling to 60-100°C at a cooling rate of at least 1°C/s, coiling up, and subjecting a preliminary ageing treatment by cooling to room temperature.

7. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the step of, after said homogenization treatment, removing the coil from the batch furnace and forcibly cooling while unwinding the coil.